ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an image region discrimination section in
an image processing section, a characteristic signal
calculation result obtained by hardware is subjected
5   to macro-scoped correction and macro-discrimination
by a processor. Further, in the image region
discrimination section, a resolution and a signal bit
number of a characteristic signals are decreased, the
resultant characteristic signals is stored in a memory,
10   and both a macro-discrimination result and the
characteristic signals are synthesized to produce a
final discrimination signal.